SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

5th Year
No
141
August 30
1971

ADDRESS:
HT 1217 B-SVN
C/O
DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies,
Information Bureaux in
foreign countries

SEP 25 1972
Cont Copy

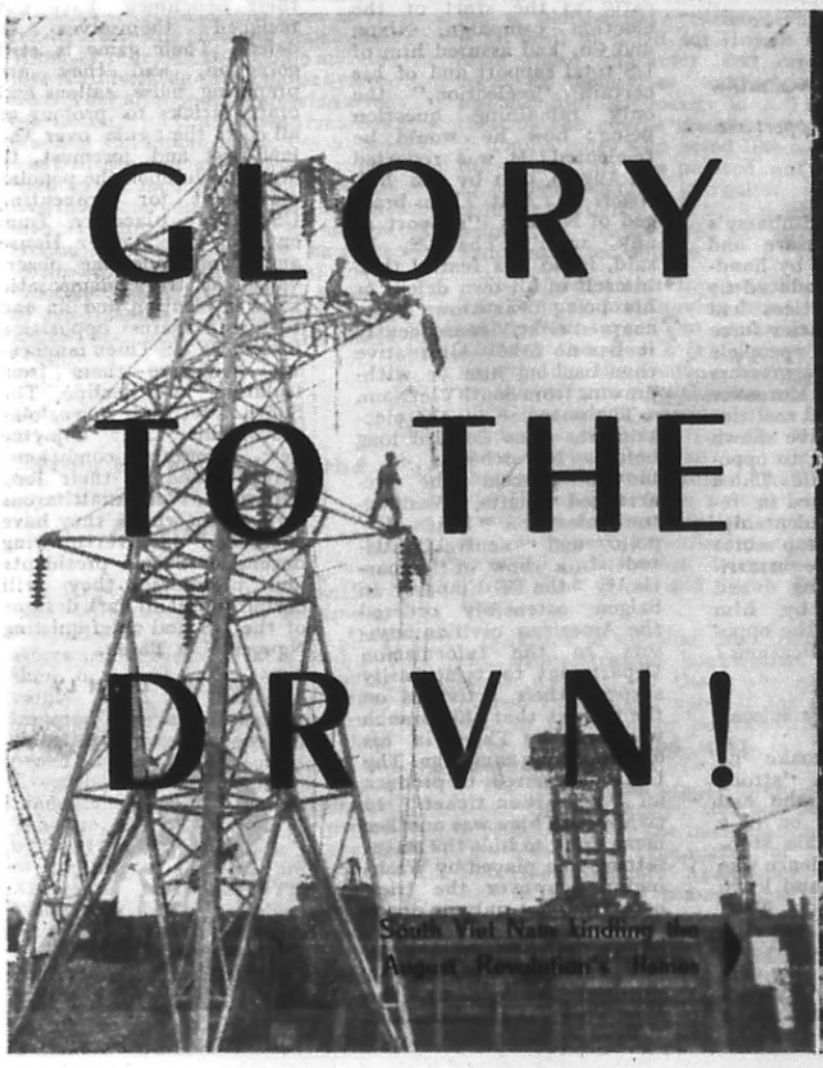
DISTRIBUTED BY
GREAT EASTERN BOOK CO.
PO BOX 20005 HONG KONG

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH,
Founder of the DRVN

"The war of resistance against US aggression may drag on. Our people may have to face new sacrifices of life and property. Whatever happens, we must keep firm our resolve to fight the US aggressors till total victory."

President HO CHI MINH's Testament

GLORY TO THE DRVN!



South Viet Nam kindling the August Revolution's flame

What Will Be Shall Be

THE Saigon electoral farce is more than ever baring its "unimaginably fraudulent" character. It has become an unprecedented event in the history of elections, let alone rigged elections.

Everything is wirepulled by the Americans — represented by Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker — and their henchman Nguyen Van Thieu. Back in Saigon from the United States where he had received directives from Nixon, Bunker hastened to meet Thieu and Minh. The meeting only angered Minh, since Bunker made no bones to let it be known that Washington was sticking to Thieu as a tool for its "Vietnamization": Thieu was lauded to the skies and Minh was to be "sacrificed" for Thieu's "democratic" renewal of his Presidentship. A few hours after seeing Bunker, Minh declared he withdraw from the race since there was no guarantee that the elections would be fair and since he himself did not like to be an accomplice of the deception. Minh furthermore handed to pressmen copies of Thieu's top-secret directives to provincial chiefs ordering them to spare no effort in securing support for Thieu. Other pieces of evidence of underhand manipulations were also revealed by Minh.

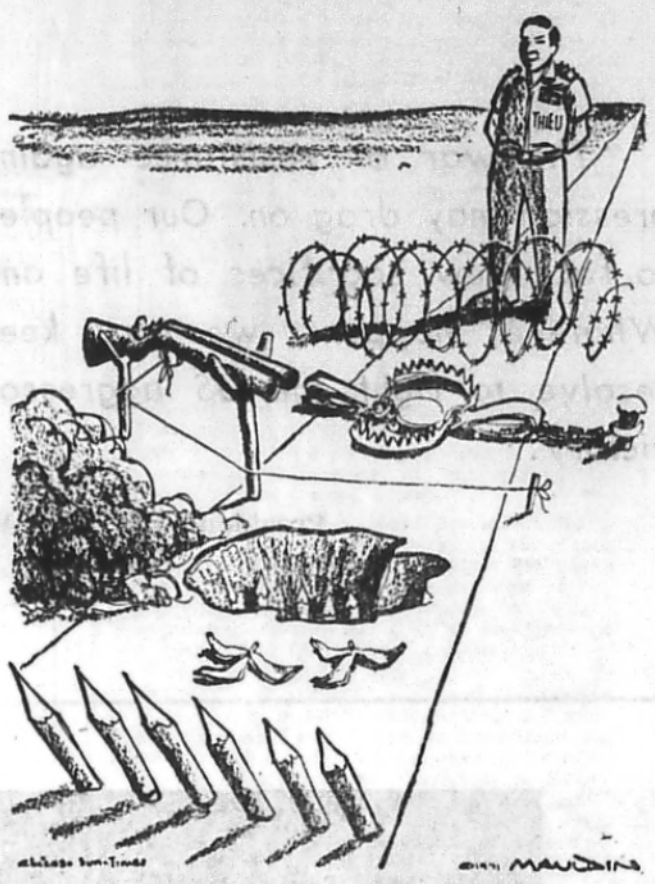
Minh's walk out was viewed by opposition forces as a hard blow at the US intention of using him as a pawn to maintain Thieu in office, and at the latter's electoral tricks.

BUT the curtain did not fall at that. Washington wanted the election to become a contest between two persons. Therefore after Big Minh's decision, Thieu's "Supreme Court" qualified Ky.

This was described by Senator Mansfield as a sheer "comedy". He said that democracy in Saigon — and he took care of putting the word "democracy" between quotes — was working in a reversed order. (AP, Aug. 21, 1971).

It goes without saying that the comedy produced a stir in Saigon. An intimate of Minh's had this to say: "This electoral farce is more grotesque than we could imagine. Laws are made in the Palace and interpreted in the US Embassy." As for Buddhist circles, they were of the opinion that the decision was indicative of the "humoristic mood of the legislative and the judiciary." It has long been everybody's knowledge that all elections held at the points of the US aggressors' bayonets were only farces. But now that the US and Thieu were finding themselves in an utterly weakened and isolated position, the farce has become even "unimaginably" grotesque, not only because the deception and terroristic measures were all too apparent, but also because the laws and regulations — although adopted under pressure of US arms and dollars — were all challenged. It is indeed unthinkable that a law which had been used to disqualify a candidate could later be used to validate the same man's candidature. US and Thieu's aim being "a two-person competition," they did not hesitate in jostling out Ky when Duong Van Minh was still in, but when Minh announced his withdrawal they wasted no time to let Ky enter the race. Pressure was brought by the US to bear on Minh for him to remain a "candidate" and then on Ky to contest the election: both actions were aimed at putting a facade of democracy on the electoral show and on Thieu's eventual "re-election." In lifting the ban on Ky, Washington furthermore wanted to deceive US public opinion on the alleged success of "Vietnamization" and "consolidation" of the Saigon regime.

Exposing the US-Thieu farce, the Saigon paper *Cong Luan* wrote: "If Ky remained a candidate in a US-prearranged election, he would lose all credit in the eyes of the people. The Ky-Le ticket was a reserve trump in the hands of the US and Thieu who would not have used it should Duong Van Minh maintain his candidacy." This was quite clear and it was no wonder that neither Ky nor Minh let himself to be taken in. The wrong calculation was Bunker's or more precisely, Nixon's. The US Embassy's threats and pressure and attempted bribery by handing out dollars produced no result as such practices had used to. The mightier force was that of the people's hatred for the US aggressors and their valets. Moreover past experience and realities of this election have shown what would happen to opposition forces should Thieu succeed unchallenged in retaining his Presidentship. Weren't the Thieu top secret directives, and the assassinations, kidnapping and violence ordered by him against members of the opposition enough indications?



Thieu: Whatever may happen, Mr. Nixon has to support me

BUT Thieu grossly miscalculated.

It would make no sense if such a "strong man" like Minh who had overthrown Diem, or if a man renowned for his stubbornness and turbulence like Ky, should sit idly and leave Thieu to rule the roost. They have withdrawn from the election not just to live in retirement. Hasn't Ky declared: "Nobody can forbid a bird to fly skyward or a fish to dive into the water or an infuriated man to fly into a rage"? The present atmosphere in Saigon which strikingly reminds one of the Diem days is but a reflection of the political confusion created by the US and Thieu. It's a common rule that heavy pressure generates a strong counterforce. What will be shall be.

Anyhow Minh and Ky's withdrawals have greatly embarrassed Washington since, as *Reuter* noticed, this is a defeat of US hopes to make the world believe that the elections will be free and democratic.

As for Thieu, this is precisely what he has been longing for. He has challenged Minh to withdraw from the race and has boasted that should Minh persist in running he would beat Minh by winning 55% of the votes. It was not fortuitous that Thieu dared to predict the outcome of the election. Everyone knows that, Thieu shrinks from no dirty trick just to continue in his office and hold the monopoly of being US chief henchman. Still Thieu's mind is not at peace even though he has at his disposal a huge administrative apparatus the armed forces and the election machinery: he is conscious of his alienation which the Western press has likened to Diem's in November 1963. "And like Diem, Thieu is now out of touch with South Viet Nam's realities and relies on a small group of self-conceited and subjective-minded advisers."

Thieu knows fairly well who is to put him again in the Presidential seat. As early as the start of the election campaign, Nixon and Co, had assured him of US total support and of his certain "reelection," the only remaining question being: how he would be re-elected? It was reported on Aug. 9, 1971 by the *Baltimore Sun* that Thieu bragged of Nixon's "support at any rate." The US, he said, is no less fearful than himself of his own defeat or his being overthrown by a coup d'Etat, consequently it has no other alternative than backing him or withdrawing from South VietNam.

The outcome of the election was thus decided long before. Nevertheless in a bid to conceal the prearranged results, Washington professed a "heads off" policy and "neutral" attitude. In a show of "impartiality" the US Embassy in Saigon ostensibly ordered the American civilian advisers to the Information Department to temporarily suspend their activities on the pretext that this branch was used by Thieu in his electioneering campaign. The US endeavoured to produce an "opposition ticket" to rival with Thieu was another mean trick to hide the stage-setting role played by Washington. However the trick backfired, not only no opposition ticket could be conjured up, but the impresario was fully exposed. In an editorial on Aug. 23, the *New York Times* pointed out that the presidential election and the whole constitutional system painstakingly built in South Viet Nam in the past years by 45,000 American lives were being turned into a comedy by Thieu's awkward measures to ensure his reelection with a majority. The US ambassador's complicity, it added, in this affair the goal of which was to create the external appearance of a contest—has dimmed America's image in the world.

Once again, through the activities of the US Embassy in Saigon, the townsfolk are given an opportunity to see by themselves the US design to cling to Thieu and to put on him a "democratic" face with a view to increasing his efficiency. They know too well the American game and have ever since been militating for US troops withdrawal, cessation of all support for Nguyen Van Thieu, the holding of genuinely democratic election going hand in hand with the improvement of living conditions. There is no doubt the Saigon people's action has exerted strong impact on the present situation, upset Nixon's calculations and thwarted right from the beginning the US deceptive plan in the rigged election.

WITH their singleness of purpose and skill, the South Vietnamese townsfolk have laid bare the vileness of this manipulated election and the "unimaginably" dirty role of Nguyen Van Thieu as Nixon's willing tool.

But the US aggressors and their henchmen have not resigned themselves to defeat. Their game is still going on, and they are preparing more callous and crafty tricks to prolong at all costs their rule over the land-first and foremost, to crack down upon the popular movement for preventing US-Thieu's placemen from entering the Lower House and demanding the observance of truly democratic rules in election and an end to terror against opposition forces. No US-Thieu manoeuvre can save them from isolation and decline. The South Viet Nam townsfolks movement is enjoying new, favourable conditions. Strengthened by their long experience of multifarous struggle in which they have succeeded in overthrowing dozens of Saigon presidents and premiers, they will certainly foil all dark designs of the US and chief quisling Nguyen Van Thieu.

THIEN LY

SAIGON STUDENTS VERSUS THE ADMINISTRATION

A representative of the masses of the poor, the student body does not co-operate with an administration in the service of a minority of foreigners' lackeys...

The gulf between the administration and the student

The many things which have happened to the student body for less than a month have exacerbated anger into hatred in those concerned with the youth.

Being not bound by the past nor committed to foreigners like their elders, the youth are now raising their voices on behalf of their fellow poor. They are conscious of the plight of their brothers and sisters, parents and relatives, the downtrodden in the countryside daily subjected to bombing and shelling but unable to speak out their resentment. They are as proud of their forefathers' resistance against foreign aggression, as of valuable assets. In front of them stand the rulers with a past that won't bear looking into, who collaborated with the colonialists to lord it over their fellow countrymen. A gulf which prevents any conciliation...

These profound cleavages have gradually led the youth into the opposition. Many people say that the students and the pupils can work together with the administration, but we think that co-operation implies a common stand, a common position.

Better than anyone, the administrationis aware of it and has been striving to crush this powerful resistance. Whoever relies on the people and enjoys their backing will come out victorious. Year after year, repression after repression, the youth have remained staunch and indomitable. We do not want to see foreigners wreak injustices on our land. We do not want to live in a society in which men exploit men. People are dying in underground shelters in remote hamlets while others sit in air-conditioned rooms, drinking whisky and looking at sexy dances. We speak up our minds and are regarded as Viet Cong...

From the election of the Students' General Association...

Under popular pressure, the authorities were compelled to set free 21 "rebellious" students but they afterward arrested others and put them in secret cells. After having vainly tried to bribe us, they imposed their men as our representatives. Everybody knows what happened during the election to the Executive Committee of the Saigon Students' General Association on June 20, 1971 and the role played by Sau Hung, a police boss in charge of the Saigon students and pupils. An uproar took place. The Voting Committee could not declare the return. Meanwhile, the administration left no stone unturned to back its favourite, which triggered widespread protest.

... To the occupation of the seat of the Students' Association and the campaign to "topple" Huynh Tan Mam

Many people think that the disturbances were isolated cases, but at closer view they proved to be part of a general plan. As is known, threat and bribery was used against voters in the Students' Association, but the most odious

trick was resorted to against student X. at the National Centre of Agriculture. An agent called on his family in Tay Ninh to threaten it because X. had a brother in jail for a political offence.

After the election to the Central Committee came the ban on the students and pupils to use their public address system. All those concerned with the students and pupil's activities foreboded a crackdown upon them. The arrest of student Ngo D., in charge of the system, came as no surprise. A big frame-up indeed. Within one day after the murder of student Nhut, the occupation of the seat of the Students' Association took place. Taking advantage of the burial, the authorities flooded Saigon with streamers accusing student Huynh Tan Mam of being a communist, a blood-thirsty ruffian. There is no need to plead for Huynh Tan Mam whose character and credit speak for themselves: anybody who has met him can testify to it. Then there is the charge made by Trang Si Tan, a judge who acted like a police chief: this was pointed out by a foreign woman journalist who reduced to silence Tan for a moment before he could give an answer which satisfied nobody.

The attempt to "topple" Huynh Tan Mam by force having failed, the authorities turned to defamation. Through the *Dan Y* (People's will), regarded by the students and pupils as the official mouthpiece of the CSQG command, everybody has realized a lot of things from the Minh Mang Campus fable to the alleged connection between Huynh Tan Phat and Huynh Tan Mam (whose birth certificate did not mention anybody as his father), reminiscent of the so-called relationship between Dr Trinh Dinh Thao and Trinh Dinh Ban.

It is safe to say that each trick of the administration boomerangs on itself. At last, all those who have pinned their hopes upon it for the sake of privileges or positions, now have doubts, and that is the bankruptcy of the system.

The heavier the crack- down, the closer the solidarity: this has been substantiated by the inauguration of the Executive Committee of the Van Hanh Students' Association, as well as the joint communique between the General Associations of Hue, Saigon, Can Tho and Van Hanh students. The bigger the sabotage, the stronger the unity, for bribery only helps the students and pupils eliminate traitors and win more sympathizers.

The position of the student body in the South

If no change comes to the South, we can affirm that no agreement can be reached between the authorities and the youth. That is a certainty.

While we regard the Vietnamese as brothers and sisters, they call them enemies; while we demand peace, they are after a military, victory not over foreigners but over brothers and sisters whom they want to kill to the last although they have the same ancestors, the same blood.

In this progressive trend we see an aura of light on the horizon: what is against the nation will be wiped out, warlike thoughts and aggressive acts are coming to grief.

How can we peacefully study when our beloved ones are dying on edges of ponds and in the fields, when our friends are detained and savagely tortured in jail?

How can we study when foreigners' boots are trampling on our soil? We admit having disturbed public order but it is an order imposed by foreigners' bayonets. We admit having rebelled but it was against those who flout the people's aspirations. We have proudly said so when in the Police General Department and the Chi Hoa jail. One, two, three people can be "rebels" but the entire people cannot be "rebels." No law can be accepted if it goes counter to the people's will: a genuine law must embody the people's will.

We cannot be compelled to act as traitors. We refuse to learn at school what is not borne out by life. The educational system aimed at turning out lackeys can be a double-adged knife. With the wheel of history the time will come when no more flunkeys can be created. That is a hitch for an imperialist policy. An alien educational system which clashes with the desire of the masses of the people will be rejected.

We have fallen victims to many slanders but the time when these slanders will come home to roost. We have to declare that we do not want to be an outpost of the Free World. We only want for our fellow countrymen adequate food and clothing and a human life. Don't force us to hear irrational things, for that will only arouse our hatred.

An exponent of the masses of the poor and the oppressed, the student body pledge to fulfil that sacred duty despite jail and torture, ill-treatment and death.

We are charged with political activities. We don't know whether we are guilty or not. For if we backed the administration, acclaimed it and heckled its opponents, it would mean no political activity. We only do what our frustrated fellow countrymen cannot carry out. Whenever the authorities do as we do, there will be a meeting without appointment, free from bribery or threat. But so long as the two positions clash with each other, there will never be co-operation.

The youth are ready to the accept the sacrifice of their lives, but only for a just cause. They are now conscious of their position. With a Nguyen Thanh Cong in Chi Hoa jail or a Huynh Tan Mam in the Police General Department, the youth remain strong as ever.

Many of us will still be thrown into Chi Hoa or deported to Poulo Condore (Con Son). We believe it easier to bear than to siding with the administration if the latter holds on to its line. Day after day, many of my comrades enter jail, but this does not mean that we shall submit. To put Duong Ngoc Son in Chi Hoa or to beat up Lam Thanh Qui in front of the Supreme Court only brings shame upon the regime and fans the hatred of the youth.

In the countryside or in the towns, the population are pinning their hopes upon us.

Our sufferings or our pride is also shared by our people. Our call is answered by the millions. The people's position is firm like an iron wall. Let those who challenge their fellow countrymen's rights think twice. Let those who nurture the illusion of using the youth to serve their dark design do the same. Once again we affirm that the youth refuse to act as lackeys and are ready to die for the independence of their Fatherland, for peace and the rights to live of their people. Whenever the administration follows the same path, we will co-operate with it, without it having to send appeals to us or to squander dollars as it has been doing.

VU TRONG LUONG
Law Student

From Tin Sang (Morning News)
August 2, 3, 4, 1971

Hue students demonstrating against US-Thieu crossing Truong Tien Bridge

PRG PEACE INITIATIVE WARMLY RECEIVED

IN SOUTH VIET NAM CITIES

TWO months have passed since the 7-point peace statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was submitted at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. Public opinion in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam has been unceasingly discussing and heartily acclaiming this peace proposal, and demanding for Nixon's serious response to it so as to quickly end war and restore peace.

Though the US and its quislings have been trying to hush up and distort the PRG peace offer right from the beginning, the Saigon press has been publishing news and keenly and sympathetically commenting on it. The daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News) on July 5 wrote: "Madame Binh's 7-point peace plan, like the East wind, has further raised the anti-war kite, and this time Nixon has no more reason to delay the US troops pullout, except the last one i.e. 'to defend South Viet Nam'." Superior monk Thien Hoa, one of the Buddhist leaders, said: "The 7 points of Madame Binh are very flexible and new. They will help break the deadlock of the Paris peace talks." This view has been warmly shared by millions of Buddhist believers.

The Saigon press has also been bitterly criticizing Nixon's tortuous and evasive attitude. Under the title "Nixon, get out of the vicious circle," *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) pointed out on July 24 that "Nixon only wants to stick to his procrastination and devious way, but not get directly to the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue." The paper warned that "those or any big powers who set their faces against the will and objective that the Vietnamese people have made many sacrifices to attain, will share the same ignominious fate as the 500,000 invincible 'Mongolian crack troops formerly or the half a million crack soldiers of the French imperialists in the recent past."

Even a number of Thieu's own papers have not dared brazenly pervert the PRG position glowing with justice for fear of losing readers. However, people in Saigon mass in front of newspaper-stalls and only buy papers discusing this matter with goodwill and in accordance with the people's peaceful aspirations. As for those which misrepresent it, they are torn to pieces by intellectuals, prominent personalities, students, pupils workers, labouring people and religious believers.

At the workers' living quarters, markets, schools, enterprises, bus stations, restaurants, refreshment rooms and barracks, from the Saigon city's centre to the outskirts of its 11 districts, everywhere people of all walks of life have been holding heated discussions on and voicing hearty support for, the PRG peace proposal and at the same time castigating the bellicose "four nays" stand of the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.

In face of Nixon's stubborn equivocation which can be perceived through warlike Thieu's fiery words, people of various strata in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam have unanimously held that the most effective support to the PRG peace plan is to further step up the actions for democratic freedoms, freedoms of meeting and of speech, against high taxes, terror and repression, especially against fraudulent elections, to unite and struggle under all forms to overthrow Thieu with a view to founding a government which pays attention to meeting the people's most pressing demands: peace, freedom, democracy and welfare.

The movement in support of the PRG goodwill gesture, for the total US troop withdrawal and the establishment of a government without Thieu to talk with the PRG has been mounting within the Saigon army and administration. Exposing Thieu's attempt to bribe the Saigon troops by increasing their wages, the commander of a civil guard unit in Tay Ninh said: "I like to handle the plough but not to earn higher pay." A Saigon M.P. stated: "I find that the 7 points are not unreasonable at all. The US has been very uncomfortable because agreement or disagreement to them will be equally very disadvantageous to the US and President Thieu." Commenting on the aforesaid statement, many men in the Saigon army and administration held that the only unreasonable thing was the US stubborn attitude. The question to be raised right now is that the US should put an end to this unjust war.

In defiance of Thieu's ban, armymen and officers in Hue, Dalat, Can Tho and My Tho cities, in Ben Tre, Long Xuyen, Hau Nghia provincial capitals... overtly listened to *Giai Phong* Radio or the Voice of Viet Nam and passed on to one another the dailies carrying the new peace proposals. In My Tho city, commanders of Division 7 and the "psy-war" agents prohibited officers and men from discussing the PRG initiative or getting information about it over the radios or through the press, and ordered military police to crack down on offenders. But several senior officers, in disregard of Thieu's orders, voiced support for the above said peace overture, especially the point on the total US troops withdrawal in 1971. An officer said: "This time, the NFL has put forth very sensible proposals. They have won big successes on the battlefield, they are strong but urge an end to the war, their goodwill is obvious." A major at the Hung Vuong military training centre, whose head had been shaved as punishment, indignantly protested: "If listening to *Giai Phong* or Hanoi Radios is to side with the Viet Cong, then the senior officers and district heads here are all their friends."

Troops of Regiment 10, Division 7 in Ben Tre three times staged protests against the war from company to battalion strength. Soldiers of several companies and mixed units of "civil guards," in various military sub-sectors and posts in Ben Tre on many occasions opposed orders to go on raids or into action. A large number of armymen and police agents in Chau Doc provincial capital refused to take part in "pacification" operations or voiced sympathy with the people's struggle.

Especially, many people's organizations in Saigon such as the *Movement for National Self Determination* the Buddhist Students' Union, the Saigon, Van Hanh, Can Tho and Hue General Associations of Students, the *Committee for Consolidating Peaceful Co-existence* of the Cao Dai Sect in Tay Ninh, the Patriotic and Peace-loving Buddhist Armymen's Association in Central Trung Bo... issued statements backing the PRG peace move and strongly condemning the Nixon and Thieu warmongers. The convention of Students and Pupils of South Viet Nam held in Hue passed a resolution acclaiming the PRG 7 points, demanding a halt to the US war and removal of the Thieu regime.

The movement of welcome and support for the PRG peace initiative has been quickly and closely connected with the workers' growing drive for the abolition of taxes on wages, with the pupils' actions against higher tuition fees, especially with the uproars against Thieu's fraud in the coming elections. Such movements, together with those for the people's welfare and democratic freedoms, are forming a steady front which utterly isolates the bellicose Thieu clique. Political turmoil in Saigon and other cities in July and recently has spelled out the high feeling of the South Vietnamese people of all strata in their resolute actions to replace the Thieu gang of fire-eaters with a peaceful government which together with the PRG, will put a quick end to the US aggressive war in South Viet Nam.

(From GPA)

Thieu More Isolated

TO cling to the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, maintain and consolidate it with a view to "Vietnamizing" the war of aggression and prolonging it, is a matter of vital importance for the neo-colonialist policy of the US imperialists in South Viet Nam.

But realities have been falling short of their expectations.

At a press conference on April 19, 1971, Nguyen Cao Ky, the number two of the "Second Republic of Viet Nam" admitted: "South Viet Nam (the Saigon administration — *Ed.*) is like a sinking rotten boat." The admission reflected in part the critical situation of the Saigon rule.

While "Vietnamization" is viewed by Nixon as a miraculous path leading to victory, the majority of the members of the Saigon administration and army hold the opposite opinion. Said a Saigon officer, "Vietnamization may turn out to be a pipe-dream for the US, and a nightmare for Saigon." The fact is that the US is neckdeep in the South Viet Nam morass. The forced and phased out US troop withdrawal has sown the seeds of defeatism among the Saigon soldiers, officers and civil servants as well. With half a million US troops, up-to-date equipment and utterly vicious tactics, the US was unable to win; now the Saigon administration, however strongly shored up by their American masters, will find it difficult to confront the People's liberation Armed Forces and shoulder the war burden: such is their evident conviction.

The debacle of Operation "Lam Son 719," the military reverses in Cambodia and South Viet Nam have plunged the Saigon troops and officers into a state of great confusion. More and more of them have come to realize that "Vietnamization" imposed by the US on the Saigon army is but a "back-breaking burden" and have refused to fall victims to the US move to "change the colour of corpses." *En masse* desertions by officers and men, non-compliance with marching orders, flights without bag and baggage in encounters with the PLAF have become daily occurrences even in the best outfits. The disorderly stampede on the Southern Laos and Snuol (Cambodia) fronts has given the lie to Nixon's assertions that his client army is growing stronger and capable of selfdefence.

While the latter is disingtegrating, the Saigon administration is in a true mess. The rivalry between Thieu and Ky is exacerbated with every passing day. As the presidential election day is drawing near, Thieu resorts to more crafty tricks to rid Ky of supporters. Not resigning himself to defeat, Ky seeks to resist by every means. Meanwhile, Thieu's placemen at all echelons are trying hard to exploit the people and enrich themselves. The Thieu apparatus of power is now completely corrupt. None other than Nguyen Cao Ky made no bones that: "A new class of exploiters has emerged and played havoc among the nation in every field. This class is composed of war profiteers, government office holders and corrupt elements." This explains why they are hated and opposed by all social segments in countryside and cities. Faced with the people's angry hostility, the administrative machinery of the quislings is fast shrinking in rural areas. Nguyen Van Thieu's boasted control over 99.7 per cent of the population and 99.4 per cent of the villages is sheer nonsense.

Such a decaying administration is of course incapable of preventing the economy from going down hill. Inflation is unabated. The cost of living, chiefly the prices of food and foodstuffs, continue skyrocketting; taxes and impositions are piling up on the people's shoulders: the living standards of everyone including armymen, officers and civil servants, are rapidly declining. Thieu and his ilk have only one recourse left — US aid. But, as the Saigon *Tin Sang* rightly pointed out, "US aid is a sugar-coated pill administered by an artful witch. The Thieu administration bases itself on the artificial boom in cities to brag of economic and financial achievements, but ironically enough, the more they brag the faster the actual deterioration — so much so that US ambassador Bunker had to admit that the US should give long range aid to Viet Nam, that is, it should go on pauperizing her people for ever."

The rottenness of the Saigon administration and army and the worsening economic and social conditions have given rise to a growing discontent among the various segments of town and countryside people, including servicemen, officers and civil servants. As his isolation increases, Nguyen Van Thieu reacts with every means: confiscation and fining of newspapers, enactment of fascist laws and regulations, overt repression, arrests and emprisonment, but all this has failed to stem the tide of opposition. As an opposition leader has put it, Thieu's reactions are but the "death throes of his regime, a regime that has sown terror and hatred, in cities and villages, between the people and government officials, a regime now busy with preparations for fraudulent elections..."

THE Saigon administration has exposed its true colours as a dictatorial, fascist and corrupt regime created and sponsored by US imperialism. It is now weaker and more isolated than ever. Nixon is endeavouring to put on it a "democratic" face; he is hanging on to Nguyen Van Thieu in an effort to prolong and expand the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, but he is just like a drowning man catching at a straw!

NIEN NGUYEN

In Southern Trung Bo

Guerilla Warfare Constantly Spreading

AN intermediate zone of South Viet Nam, Southern Trung Bo is fairly large and comprises many mountains and plateaux. Though economically poor and sparsely populated—save the coastal plains—it is a rather important strategic area. It is crossed by many strategic roads: Highways 1, 11, 20..., the trans-South Viet Nam railways, and the line connecting the plains with Dalat town. It has many important ports: Nha Trang, Binh Thuan and especially Cam Ranh military harbour, military training centres like Dalat, Lam Son (Ninh Thuan), major military bases like Song Mao, Duc Trong... It also shelters many minority peoples. Due to the characteristics and strategic position of Southern Trung Bo, the US and its Saigon quislings have been strengthening their military defence and trying to coax and bribe, deceive and divide, and concentrate people and "pacify" the area so as to fulfil the dream of "Vietnamizing" the war, using Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese and pitting montagnards against plain dwellers.

However, the staunch and indomitable armed forces and people of Southern Trung Bo have been unceasingly and successfully hitting back since their "concerted uprisings." Guerilla warfare has been gradually mounting vigorously and steadily, particularly over the last six months. With the people's whole-hearted support, the three categories of the liberation armed forces have been closely coordinating their actions, and stepping up their activities throughout the three strategic areas.

In the course of deep thrusts into the US-Saigon bases and foiling enemy "mopping-up" operations against the liberated zone, the Southern Trung Bo liberation armed forces have rapidly grown up. During the past half-year they have overrun Song Mao, Dalat, Phan Thiet, many military subsectors and towns. Whole adverse battalions have been wiped out, armour squadrons completely destroyed, many HQs of regiment, battalion, company of civil guards badly damaged. Seizing the initiative and preventing the adversary from shoring up "pacification," the guerilla units and regional forces have put out of action and decimated more than ten companies and platoons. In two assaults against Lam Son training centre, the Southern Trung Bo liberation armed forces knocked out over 500 Saigon student officers and hundreds of Lon Nol men gathered there. Cam Ranh military harbour, Nha Trang and Dong Ba airfields, many logistic depots have come under many devastating attacks. According to still incomplete figures, during the last six months the Southern Trung Bo armed forces and people have been responsible for over 7,200 enemy casualties, including 750 American aggressors. In Khanh Hoa province alone, 3,423 men have been wiped out, including over 410 Americans and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries and 265 Lon Nol troops: one Americain major, one Pak Jung Hi major, one colonel and two majors as well as many N.C.O's of the Saigon army. The guerilla units and regional forces on both sides of strategic communication lines—by road or by rail have intercepted many convoys of vehicles, cut off traffic for many days, and destroyed many war means. Five engines and 32 military cars been overturned, 155 military vehicles (including 60 tanks and armoured cars) destroyed, for the most part on strategic Highway 1, 11 and 20.

The peoples of Southern Trung Bo—both in the plains and on the plateaux—have closed their ranks. Over the past six months, more than 25,000 attendances have been recorded in 300 demonstrations, often in the US-Saigon zone, to lay bare the enemy's scheme to bribe and divide the nationalities and to boost their revolutionary mettle. Helped by the armed forces, the population have pulled down 220 "strategic hamlets." In the disputed areas, the resettlement of people into "strategic hamlets" has been fiercely resisted and demanded freedom of movement.

In the areas still under enemy sway, the population have intensified actions against all forms of oppression, and for the freedom to till their land.

Combining armed and political actions, the Southern Trung Bo people have also used many legal methods to militate for better living conditions, democratic freedoms, peace, withdrawal of all GIs... They have persuaded thousands of Saigon soldiers and families to cross over to the resistance side.

The recent historic victory on Highway 9—Southern Laos and the many achievements of the armed forces and people on the South Viet Nam battlefield during the first six months of this year, especially the important victory of the High Plateaux armed forces and people, have greatly stimulated the fighting will of the Southern Trung Bo armed forces and people. In the general impetus on the battlefield, guerilla warfare has been developing vigorously, steadily and homogeneously.

T. C.

Nixon Will Suffer Graver Failures

THE Pentagon's secret papers brought to light in mid-June once again confirmed that successive US administrations from Truman to Johnson had been pursuing a policy of systematic aggression in Viet Nam. With Nixon in the White House, Washington's intentions became still more vicious and its manoeuvres more machiavellian. Before the American and world peoples' court, Richard Nixon is an obdurate aggressor and a swindler craftier than any of his predecessors. Since he stepped onto the political stage either as Vice President for eight years under Eisenhower or as a legislator, he had been known as an ardent advocate of a bold policy of aggression in Viet Nam with a most venture—some military strategy and the use of ruthless war means. Didn't the Eisenhower administration defray nearly 80% of France's war spending in Indochina?

When French troops were beleaguered at Dien Bien Phu in early 1954, this administration offered to relieve them within the framework of Operation *Vautour* by bombing the area with 60 strategic B.29s based in the Philippines and 300 tactical aircraft from 7th Fleet. While Eisenhower stated, "If Indochina goes, several things happen right away... The tin and tungsten that we so greatly value from that area would cease to come," Nixon went to the length of pressing for the use of tactical A-bombs. On April 16, 1954 Nixon emphatically declared that America must sent her armed forces to Viet Nam to save the French troops from a disaster (New York Times, April 18, 1954). Nixon's warlike line was strongly scored by world opinion. During his trip to nine Latin American countries in 1958, he was hooted by hostile crowds which, chanting "Nixon go home," hurled eggs and tomatoes at him. He was defeated in the 1960 presidential elections, driven out of the White House and, from then to 1968, he staunchly backed Kennedy and Johnson's war policy in Viet Nam. Nixon did not only approve Lyndon Johnson's "limited war" but even found it not up to the mark. He criticized his de-escalating the war, his "overestimating the enemy," and in October 1968 he opposed the termination of bombings in North Viet Nam. Either as Vice president or as president he visited South Viet Nam seven times—more than any other American in the same capacity — and each time he called for the intensification of the war.

In the thick of the 1968 electoral campaign Nixon promised he would "end the war in six months," and once installed in the White House he did not live up to his promise. His Vietnamization policy ballyhooed as a US honorable way out of the war has been more and more exposed by American opinion as immoral, as nothing short of an illusion, a prolongation of the war. In thirty months in office Richard Nixon made roundabout pronouncements on the termination of US involvement, on an early end to war. It has turned out that Nixon's policy is peace in words and war in deeds, that his search for peace has actually brought the war to Laos and Cambodia, and that "self-restraint" or a "gradual ending of the involvement" has meant many more bombs and bullets used than under Lyndon Johnson.

Quite clearly, Nixon's words and deeds over the past twenty years have spelled out his bellicosity, cruelty, obduracy, craftiness and, at the same, US imperialism's aggressive scheme, and intention to control Viet Nam. His neo-colonialist policy, war-seeking line and stubborn attitude are perfectly consistent. Therefore his deception, however crafty, and his inordinate ambition cannot avoid being bared by American and world opinion. Those who harboured illusions about a "new Nixon" have now seen Nixon's true colours. Nixon is treading Johnson's beaten path and that of preceding presidents. And the "Nixon doctrine" is just a repetition of propositions advanced by previous administrations more particularly that of the Eisenhower administration on the advisability, after the Korean war, not to commit combat troops to the mainland of Asia. The difference, if any, lies in that the said "doctrine" stresses US troops' coordination with, and support given by US technical services to, the indigenous forces, as well as in a deeper US involvement in other countries' own affairs. Nixon's Vietnamization strategy is a mere product of the weakening and losing posture of American imperialism during the implementation of its colonialist policy. He dreamt of a massive invasion of Viet Nam by American troops. Didn't he, not long ago, prove himself to be one of the most active promoters of Johnson's "limited war"? The tide has nevertheless prevented him from materializing his dream. The time when big countries used their military strenght to oppress and dominate smaller ones is gone for good. The world peoples and progressive Americans are at present in a position to stay the criminal hands of the US imperialists in spite of their tremendous military and economic potentials. In the test of strength on the Viet Nam battlefield, the US expeditionary force has lost, and Nixon has no other alternative than the "Vietnamization of the war." He has to play a risky gamble, though aware that "Vietnamization" rests on a shaky basis: a rotten client administration owing its survival to violence, and a heterogenous army with defeat as its tradition and ready to disintegrate when under fire.

Obdurate, bellicose, cruel and perfidious by nature, Nixon has experienced bitter setbacks in his political life. Should he continue to pursue the Vietnamization path, he will suffer graver failures than any of his predecessors.

THANH HONG

MESSAGE OF GREETING

To President **TON DUC THANG,**
Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee **TRUONG CHINH,**
Premier **PHAM VAN DONG,**

ON our people's glorious August 19 and September 2 anniversaries, the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam extend to you, and through you to all the Northern kith and kin, officers and men of the heroic Viet Nam People's Army, our best wishes for success in their socialist construction and renew our pledge to make all-out efforts in the fight to defend all our sacred national rights.

Continuing our national tradition and the August Revolution's great cause, the South Vietnamese people, under the NFL and PRG leadership, have won series of successes of important strategic significance, especially in the first 6 months of this year, dealt very heavy blows at the Nixon doctrine, and seriously jeopardized the US imperialists' "Vietnamization." The movement against "pacification" in the countryside, the drive of the workers and urban people of all walks of life, and our 7-point peace plan, have brought together the overwhelming majority of the people, utterly isolated the bellicose and dictatorial agents of the US imperialists. The said movements have won the approval and support of the world's peoples and broad masses of Americans, aggravated Nixon's and his followers' confusion and forced them into desperate moves to dodge popular demands, which have only exposed their losing and passive posture and their brazenly obdurate and warlike nature.

The two major festive days of the nation this year being observed in circumstances extremely favourable to our advance and ever greater successes, the South Vietnamese people will always bear in mind that all their achievements are closely associated with the wholehearted assistance of the people and armymen of beloved North Viet Nam who have been shrinking from no sacrifices and hardships to help the Southern people and army fulfil their task as the big frontline of the country.

This great occasion will remind the South Vietnamese army and people of the last message of Revered President Ho Chi Minh who devotedly led our people, brought the August Revolution to glory and founded the DRVN, our entire people's pride.

The people and PRG of the RSVN express the unshakable conviction that with the August Revolution's splendid and glorious tradition, with the NFL judicious revolutionary lines which hold high our people's sense of independence and sovereignty, our people's cause against the US aggressors for national salvation will surely carry the day.

South Viet Nam, August 18, 1971

NGUYEN HUU THO,
Chairman of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee
HUYNH TAN PHAT,
President of the RSVN PRG

editorial

GLORY TO THE DRVN!

TWENTY-SIX years ago, on September 2, 1945, at historic Ba Dinh square, the beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, President Ho Chi Minh solemnly proclaimed before the nation and the world: **"Viet Nam is entitled to, and has in fact achieved, freedom and independence."**

Since then, from a backward agricultural and semi-feudal country, a practically unknown French colony, Viet Nam has become an independent and unified land, possessed of a social regime unmatched by numerous other nations.

Over these 26 years, in the accomplishment of their historic mission, our people have been recording tremendous exploits which have been bringing glory to our nation, elation to our friends far and wide, and alarm to the aggressors wherever they come from.

Twenty-nine days after the Declaration of Independence, the southern part of our land started the long-drawn resistance to a come-back of the French colonialists, and one year and four months exactly following the September 2 Independence Day, the nation-wide resistance war which lasted over [illegible] years and was crowned by the Dien Bien Phu [illegible] making victory, broke out.

In July 1954, the signing of the Geneva Agreements tolled the knell of [illegible] domination while heralding Viet Nam independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. As North Viet Nam was rid of the Corps expeditionnaire français' last soldier, the US imperialists jumped into South Viet Nam, waged a special then limited war followed by the "Vietnamization" of it, planning to put South Viet Nam again under their neo-colonialist yoke, and making it a US military base. Once again exercising their right to self-defence, the South Vietnamese people rose up to preserve the revolution gains and wrest back independence and freedom.

EVER since its liberation, North Viet Nam has been tackling to the after-war reconstruction of the country and building the most magnificent social regime in mankind history: socialism. Under President Ho Chi Minh's able leadership, and guided by a sound, creative and independent line of their own, our dear ones in the North have transformed a backward agricultural colony into a North Viet Nam having a promising industry, a collectivized agriculture and an advanced national culture.

With the keen sense that the North is the great rear of the whole nation's revolution, they have made all-out efforts to build socialism while wholeheartedly assisting South Viet Nam revolution.

In August 1964 as the US special war strategy was nodding to its bankruptcy in the South, massive US expeditionary troops were sent in to the rescue and an air and naval war of destruction waged against the North. By means of the latter, the Johnson administration wanted to wreck its economic and military potentials, hamper socialist construction there, subsequently preventing the North from discharging its duty as the great rear of the frontline that is the South. But the North and its armed forces fought back fiercely, kept construction going and fulfilling remarkably their task of assisting the Southern resistance to US aggression, as recommended by President Ho Chi Minh.

Such glowing pages of history, such signal feats of arms point to the epic progress of the DRVN regime. In a little over a quarter-century, under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam left the preceding regimes far behind, the Vietnamese nation gained more credit, the DRVN, the Viet Nam of Dien Bien Phu, of great Ho Chi Minh, underwent a miraculous metamorphosis.

Proud of their motherland's giant strides, the army and people of South Viet Nam eagerly emulate in wiping out many more enemy troops and greeting the Spring of the country and the nation's outstanding achievements with their exploits.

LOYAL to her country, South Viet Nam has over these 26 years been fighting with matchless valiance and tenacity, resolved to do the most for the revolution of the whole nation. Together with the rest of the country, South Viet Nam defeated the US-backed French war of aggression, and has been foiling each of the US imperialists' war strategies. Nixon's "Vietnamization" now under way is the essence of the doctrine bearing his name, the rabid counter-attacks of US imperialism in its declining and losing posture. It actually boils down to the prolongation and extension of the war with the blood of Saigon mercenaries strongly supported by US logistics and combat troops. A "Vietnamized" war is believed by the Pentagon to turn a losing posture into a position of strength. "Vietnamization" also means brutal military methods coupled with political and diplomatic manoeuvres. But it is mere the squirming of a Nixon at the end of his tethers. Far from getting him out of the present mess, it only drives him speedily into a tighter corner. Events on the Indochinese battlefield these first 8 months and heavy reverses on Highway 9, Southern Laos, northeastern Cambodia, Tri Thien, the Central High Plateaux and [illegible] spelled out the hopelessness of the move.

The US imperialists' ultimate failure is left in no doubt. Their losing posture is unquestionable. The South Vietnamese people are winning and the triumph of South Viet Nam revolution is a certainty.

IN the fight against the ringleader of all imperialists, the most dangerous foe of mankind, the enemy number one of our own people and those of the Indochinese peninsula, each success recorded by South Viet Nam has been closely associated with President Ho Chi Minh's deep concern and heartfelt sollicitude. His appeals resounding across rivers and mountains and his inspiring exhortations prompted by boundless love, have profoundly moved and stimulated the South Vietnamese people and army. They are a clarion call urging us to dash forward, the source of miraculous strength which invigorates South Viet Nam and helps it overcome all difficulties and forge ahead, and stiffens its resolve to defeat the US aggressors completely.

The South Vietnamese people and army's achievements over these 26 years have been the crowning of ardent patriotism, devotion and mutual love. The dedication of the 17 million northerners to South Viet Nam revolution remains for ever enshrined in the heart of the Southerners who are fired by each appeal, encouragement and assistance from the National Assembly, the government of the DRVN and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front. The Northerners have their minds constantly turned southward. By them no hardships or sacrifices are to be feared. "Everything for the South, the great heroic frontline." At present, shouldering the heavy tasks entrusted to them by the whole nation, our Northern fellow-countrymen have been emulating in building an ever stronger North, and side by side with their Southern kith and kin, giving everything, even their blood for the liberation of the South, defence of the North, with a view to the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

More than ever, the tradition of national union, the brotherly love between Southerners and Northerners has been blossoming magnificently in the current struggle against US aggression for national salvation. It is the fountain head of South Viet Nam's strength, confidence and bravery. How proud we feel of socialist North Viet Nam, the great and fearless rear of the whole country revolution!

ON the occasion of the glorious National Day, our minds are turning northward, conveying to the beloved other half of our motherland assurances of our unshakable allegiance, greeting with immense joy the splendid achievements recorded by our 17 million brothers and sisters there in their construction and defence of the country. We extend to the National Assembly, the government of the DRVN, the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the expression of our boundless affection and rocklike solidarity. The memory of President Ho Chi Minh, the esteemed leader of the nation, great teacher of the Viet Nam revolution and founder of the DRVN, stirs up South Viet Nam with profound feelings of love and veneration. We pledge to bend all our moral and material strength to defend national independence and freedom, strengthen our unity and make all-out efforts to implement his last will, step up our fight and fulfil the glorious task of defeating the US aggressors completely. Let's always uphold our nation's traditional heroism, the indomitable militancy of the August Revolution and the September 2 Independence Day, let's translate into deeds President Ho Chi Minh's teachings: Such is the solemn oath of the South Vietnamese people and army.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Forward !

Fighters, Countrymen !

In pious memory and profound veneration of the great leader of Viet Nam, the friend of the world's peoples, President Ho Chi Minh who passed away two years ago, September 3, 1971, we solemnly present some stanzas from his **Prison Diary.**

His verses while conveying untold sufferings and appalling conditions of the prison life, beam with revolutionary optimism and serene confidence in ultimate victory. His last poem **Spring 1969** *was a vibrant call to dash forward and save the Country — Ed.*

Prison Diary

THE body is in prison,
The mind escapes outside :
To bring about great things
The mind must be large and well-tempered.

*

Departure Before Dawn

THE cocks crow once, the night is not yet over.
Slowly the moon climbs up the autumn hills
In company with the stars, but now the traveller
Who journeys far is already out on the road ;
His face is beaten with icy gusts of wind.

THE paleness in the East is turning rosy,
Night's shadows are swept up, and warmth extends
Over the universe : and in the traveller
The poet warms and wakes.

*

Cold Night

IN the cold autumn night, without mattress, without blankets,
Lying with back curled round and legs folded up close,
I try in vain to sleep. The moonlight on the plantains
Increases the sense of cold, and through the window-bars
The Great Bear draws up alongside and looks in.

On Reading "Anthology of A Thousand Poets"

THE ancients used to like to sing about natural beauty :
Snow and flowers, moon and wind, mists, mountains and rivers.
Today we should make poems including iron and steel,
And the poet also should know how to lead an attack.

*

After Prison, A Walk in the Mountains

THE clouds embrace the peaks, the peaks embrace the clouds.
The river below shines like a mirror, spotless and clean.
On the crest of the Western Mountains, my heart stirs as I wander
Looking toward the Southern sky and dreaming of old friends.

*

Spring 1969

LAST year was full of glorious victories.
This year the forefront's sure to win still bigger ones.
For Independence, for freedom,
Let's fight to the Yanks quit, and the puppets topple.
Forward ! Fighters, countrymen !
North South reunited, could there be happier Spring !

Võ Nguyên Giáp

In the great rear of our country

The HOA LOC Drum Beats

WE returned to Hoa Loc village (Hau Loc district, Thanh Hoa province) a few days after hurricanes number 8 and 9 had hit the mainland. Though the typhoons were over, heavy showers of rain continued to fall one after another. We stayed at the house of old Hong, a father of two now fighting on the battlefield. Cheerful and vivacious, old Hong told us: "It poured down like this at the last send-off for the new recruits of the village. It would have been a much merrier occasion if it had not rained that day!" He went on: "Stories about this village's youths volunteering to take part in the fight against the US aggressors are so many that they cannot be all told in one day. At each draft drive, the youths are all in an excitement. At work, in military training sessions as well as in meetings, everywhere there is a stirring atmosphere. They tell one another to write applications to enrol into the army, with the same animation as when our co-villagers discussed the Highway 9 successes early this year."

It continued to rain ever harder. Over cups of piping hot tea, the talk between old Hong and us became ever more interesting and effusive.

"Take this hamlet for one," he insisted, "so many moving stories are associated with Dung, younger brother of Cde Duy, an executive member of the village Party committee. Since he heard of his brother's death in action, Dung constantly thought of joining the army. Though still under draft age, he already got all the necessary outfit such as pack, boots, Truong Son (Long Range) stick ... At every recruitment, he went to the village military committee, and tried to qualify for service by overstating his age or eating stodgy food before weighing, but he failed in all his attempts. Each time his friends went up, Dung wept bitterly like a child. But for over a year now, I don't know how he managed but he had got his way. He was reading on air the day he t for the army. With a lit-up face, he went about telling all of his success and bidding farewell to them.

People in Xuan Tien hamlet also have been unceasingly commending the bright example of Sang, a young wife. Upon learning of a new enrolment drive she wrote an application in her husband's name. At nightfall, when the children were sound asleep, she told him what she had done. The husband was very moved as he did not expect his wife to agree to his joining up. Long ago, he had had this intention, but as he worried about his weak and old parents and young children, he dared not disclose it to his wife. The couple then signed the request which was eventually sent to the military committee. The day when Viet set out, his wife provided him with all necessary equipment. And ever since, she has been zealously discharging her family chores and farming work.

Such armymen's wives who satisfactorily ally family affairs and civic duties as Sang have been growing in numbers: Thuan and Hanh in Tam Hoa hamlet, Hien in Xuan Tien hamlet, Hoi and Luong in Bai Chung hamlet... All of them attend with equal efficiency to their chores and social activities. They have been elected model co-op members, examplary militiawomen, "three responsibilities" women or "four good" youth union members. Since their husbands went up the line, Hien, Hoi and Hanh have set for themselves concrete objectives for self-betterment. From ordinary co-op members, they have become model cadres of the co-operatives, taken charge of the leading production teams, and have been winning the people's deep sympathy. Hoi has been on the village people's council for many terms. So have Hien on the executive of the village Party committee, and Hanh on the secretariat of the women's association...

As a matter of custom, each time the youths are to leave the village, the old militiamen in Hoa Loc organize bonfires, socials, and hand Truong Son sticks to them. On such occasions, young women in the village also stream to the place to present embroidered handkerchiefs and other gifts to the new recruits. They compete with one another in singing for the latter the best songs and pledge to emulate with them. The people in the village cannot remember how many such parties they have so far attended. The only thing which everyone reminds is that for 7 years now as Hoa Loc always sends its eligible young men to the army ahead of schedule, the village has been awarded 5 orders of various kinds including one Resistance Order, First Class. At present not a week or a month passes without the villagers receiving letters or citations from all the battlefields.

WE called at Xuan Tien co-operative while its members were busy working in the ricefield. Hundreds of young men accompanied by young women massed in front of the supply and marketing co-op, not for shopping but for physical examination for military service.

At each drive, the local military committee has to settle series of cases of patriotic families asking for permission for their sons and brothers to enlist. Mr Tuan's family in Xuan Tien has 4 sons. In previous years, the first 3 children, Phuong, Vuong and Dan, had gone, and recently Tu, the eldest son, also came forward. "You are old," we told Mr and Mrs Tuan, "you already have 3 boys in the army, so let Tu stay home to take care of you." But they refused to listen to us. Mr Tuan said: "Each young man has his own duty. To fight the US aggressors is everyone's duty, please take him. The villagers will look after us." Next day, Mr and Mrs Tuan again brought Tu to meet us and insisted that we let him go. "Our family has carefully considered the matter. Now I've brought him to you, and we hope he may join his brothers."

When Mr and Mrs Tuan were about to leave, another villager came in with a similar request. "We want you to help our Xum," old Thuy said. Here is his application. All my family have signed it, and everything has been arranged. We only wait for your agreement, and we shall be very happy if he is accepted." We told Mr Thuy to wait until the next drive because Xum was still under age, but his family sent us another application, giving all sorts of reasons and making clear that such was Xum's and his family's wish.

On the way to the hamlet storages, we heard a voice from a house inviting us to come in and take some tea. Soon after we walked into the house, Cde Que at once said: "We forgot just now to tell you about Cde Phan's case, it was also very complicated..."

Mr Phan who did not know what we were talking about, apologetically said: "Perhaps, you want to criticize me for being too slow. All right I'm sorry..."

"You are not only too slow," Cde Que replied, "but you also give much annoyance to the military service committee."

Only then did Mr Phan understand, and he laughed together with us.

In the former war of resistance against the French colonialists, Mr Phan had two younger brothers in the army, and they all had valiantly laid down their lives. He has two children, but a few years ago, they also joined up. Now came the turn of Dien, his brother's son. He also signed the application and accompanied his nephew to the military committee, to request it to take him and give him the opportunity to discharge his duty to the land and avenge his cousins.

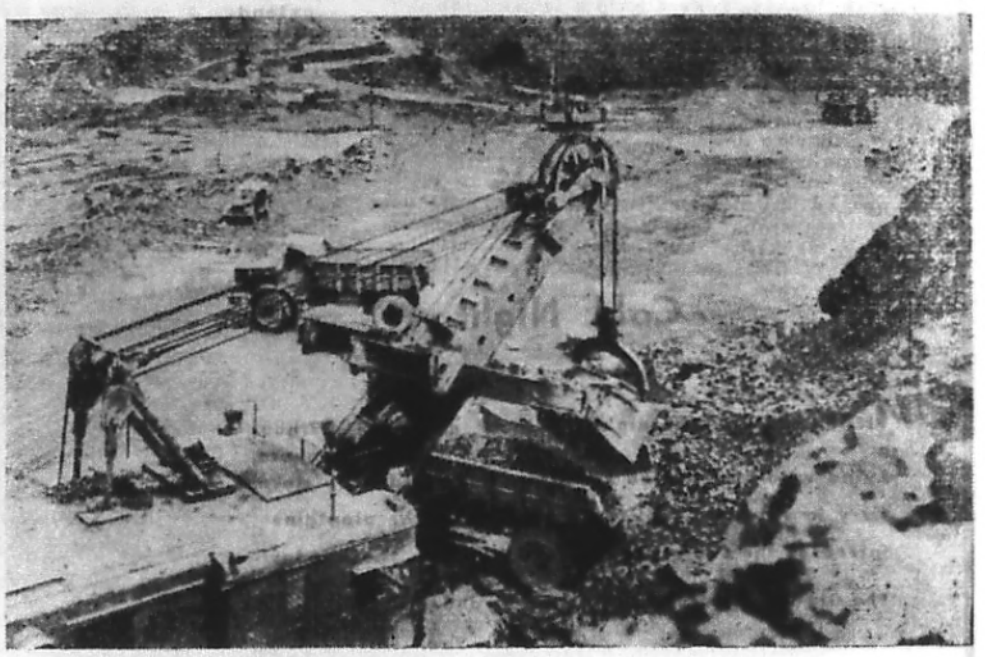
Mr Phan asked us to have some tea.

"All right," he cheerfully said to us, "if you refuse, I shall complain to the district and even the provincial administrative committees. *The fathers go first, and next the children*, they all become comrades-in-arms," he concluded quoting a folk-song.

All burst into laughter. Far away, from the health check-up place resounded the young pioneers' drum-beats which mingled with the concerted heart beatings of Hoa Loc youths now busy preparing to join in the national struggle against US aggression.

DAO NGUYEN BAO

(from the paper Tien Phong *published in North Vietnam)*



More coal for the fatherland

The DRVN *In Brief*

o On August 18, a delegation of the DRVN National Assembly led by Hoang Van Hoan, Vice-Chairman of its Standing Committee, left for a friendship visit to the USSR, the Polish People's Republic, the Romanian Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

o Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, has recently visited a course for middle and high-ranking officers of the Viet Nam People's Army. He called on "the officers and men of the armed forces to uphold the VNPA heroic tradition, make all-out efforts to unceasingly raise the armed forces' fighting potentialities for ever greater successes."

o On the 16th People's Navy Day (August 5) Pham Van Dong, Premier of the DRVN, visited a number of Navy units. He commended the fighting achievements and building of forces of the said units and all the Navy officers and men. "The Navy must become the task force of our army and people's large and powerful forces," he said.

o At a solemn meeting in commemoration of the 15th founding anniversary of the Viet Bac Autonomous Region (August 19), Lieutenant-General Chu Van Tan, Chairman of its Administrative Committee, made a speech outlining the following achievements in construction:

— In public health: the region now boasts 200 doctors, 600 assistant doctors or an average of one doctor or assistant doctor for every 2,000 inhabitants, and a maternity for every 400 women.

— In education: there are 45,411 pupils of elementary schools (tenfold the 1956 figure), and 13,802 pupils of secondary schools (33 times the same year's figure).

— In industry: over 200 state-owned enterprises and factories have been built, and 350 co-operatives and handicraft production teams set up.

— In forestry: over 3 million cubic-metres of timber have been exploited and 12,000 hectares of forests planted.

Deep Under the Earth

WE crossed a plain about half a hectare large, pock-marked with craters from rockets, bombs and shells of various sizes and sprayed with toxic chemicals. The earth was ploughed up; no vegetation left, from the tufts of grass growing in the crevices of the rocks to the tendergreen tea and pepper hills, everything had been devastated or burnt down. The parched earth was cracked. No huts were standing, no poultry, no dogs about. Even the birds refused to alight in this area reeking of gunpowder. Nevertheless, deep under the earth, life was going on more bustling than ever.

BEFORE us were the billowy hillocks looking from the distance like fortifications. Just at that time, Huyen whispered into my ear: "That's the first-aid station of our village."

An L19 spotter was circling over our heads: when it banked, I shouted anxiously: "It's dropping a smoke bomb!" But Huyen replied forthwith

"On that day, I saw along the trench nothing green, but heaps of rubble, and bomb splinters, and heard the uninterrupted booming of enemy guns," she said. "Bombs were falling around me when I was carrying a rookie wounded at the front. Just when I arrived here, a bomb exploded. I laid my man on the ground and covered him with my body." When it was finished, I sat up and called to him:

'Are you hurt, comrade?'

I could not conceal my joy when I saw that his nostrils were still dilating and contracting. Carrying him pickaback, I tried to get over this portion of the communication trench. A string of bombs drifted in our direction and I laid him in a nook of the trench. The place was large enough for him only, so I sat outside, observing the the trajectory of the bombs. Suddenly, a plane nose-dived and released another stick of bombs. I just took him out the trench when deafening detonations were heard. A bomb splingter hit me in the foot. The loss of blood made me faint. When I came to, the

'No, not yet,' and continued to pick violet flowers growing deep in the bomb craters. Here young girls liked to gather these flowers for their hair or for the war-wounded back from the front.

Huyen handed to me a bunch of them and said in an commanding voice: 'Now let's go down into the trench!'

The communication trenches crisscrossed the area like a cobweb, linking one village to another, one hamlet to to another, each house to its well and kitchen, the medical station to the school, the village to the river.

"Are the wounded safe in these trenches? Have any of you been injured while on duty?", I asked Huyen.

She remained silent for a long moment; then, rounding her eyes, she looked vacantly in the distance, absorbed in thought. When she knitted her brows, she looked childish and serious at the same time. She gazed at me and told me about her first evacuation trip:

wounded man had slipped off my back. I crawled toward him, and told him to cling to my shoulders and with him on my back I started off. The faint rays of the declining sun projected long streaks on the ground. The wounded soldier's face was livid; his lips were parched. The wounds in his head and legs were still bleeding. I was broken-hearted and made up my mind to sacrifice myself rather than let him be hurt again. So I rushed forward, unmindful even of unexploded pellet bombs.

"With my charge, I reached the first aid station when night was falling. In the light of kerosene lamps, hurricane lamps and mantel lamps, I saw that the patients were being fed or dressed by the nurses or they were drowsily listening to some young girls' songs. Ba, a soldier from Quang Nam who lost his sight and both his arms liked to hear Miss Dzung sing **The Vietnamese Girl**:

On my white sheeted bed I hear songs
from all parts of the country
And remember mother singing of yore

The boat woman's tune on the Thu Bon river.

This calmed down the smarting of his wounds. He felt at ease and soon dropped off.

It was dark. Yet the enemy craft were still whirring over head. They dropped flares but were unable to spot that marvellous light in the bosom of the earth.

Suddenly in the zigzagging trench, Mother Xay ran towards me, weeping: 'I have been worrying about that boy.' And touching the forehead of the wounded soldier, she said: 'Wake up and have some milk!'

As the man's eyes remained shut, she repeated aloud: 'Take some milk, there's a good boy!'

This time the soldier opened his eyes. Her face brightened up. She gave him some spoonfuls of milk and urged him to eat more. That night she did not sleep a wink.

She grew pale; her eyes were sunken, her cheeks hollow.

To the people who advised her to take a rest, she replied with tears in her eyes: 'I'm old and can do no hard job; let me do at least this one.'

Sometimes she took some joss-sticks and visited the war dead's graveyard."

The enemy shelling stopped. The spotters disappeared. Huyen patted me on the shoulders, saying, "Now let's go and see some film."

WE arrived when the show was about to begin. The screen was hung in a long roomy trench crowded with wounded soldiers and guerillas sleek AK guns on their shoulders and cartridge belts, hand grenades and knives around their waists.

Near me was an old man with a wrinkled face but an exuberant nature: when he saw on the screen a group of women fighters shooting at the enemy with B.40 guns, he clapped his hand against the butt-end of his gun and exclaimed: "Well done!"

"How long have you been in the guerilla?", I asked him.

"About thirty years," he said. "I've taken part in ten hand-to-hand fights."

When he saw a group of nurses appearing under a deluge of bombs, he shouted again: "They're from our village, for sure!"

Only then could I look him from head to toe: besides his gun he was carrying an invalid soldier on the back.

"You see, maimed as he is, he never misses a session."

When the documentary "Attack on Hue City" was on and he saw our men storming enemy bases, and gaining control of the city he slapped his rifle-butt again and noisily exulted: "Good, hit hard at the Yanks, comrades."

The film show was drawing to a close, yet L.19 and OV-10 spotters were still circling in the sky without being able to find any target.

BAO HA

Oh South Viet Nam, Land of the Undaunted!

LOVE for poetry and a taste for versifying has been a millenary trait of the Vietnamese nation.

In the defence and construction of the country, generals and statesmen have composed poems to sing the people's accomplishments, the beauty of the land, the Vietnamese man with a view to enhancing their dauntlessness and confidence in the future of the nation.

The southern kingdom is the southern people's demesne,
As written in the Book of destiny in heaven
If aggressors come and assault our land,
They are fated to humiliating failure.

A real "declaration of independence," a triumphal epic by Ly Thuong Kiet after worsting the Tsong invaders.

Amidst blue waters and green mountains, barges sleep on the beach
In the late night and luminous moonlight guests climb up the pavilion.

Thus mused Nguyen Trai, Le Loi's strategist, after chasing out the Ming aggressors.

Since the appearance of President Ho Chi Minh, a great leader and poet, saviour of Viet Nam, Vietnamese poetry has been endowed with a new substance. While reading poems of yore he commented:

Today we should make poems including iron and steel
And the poet also should know how to lead an attack.

Heirs to the traditional passion for literature of the nation, and disciples of President Ho, South Viet Nam's revolutionary poets have been trying hard to depict the realities of its people's life, patriotism, revolutionary optimism and unyielding resistance. They have not remained indifferent to the US-Saigon heinous crimes which they stigmatize in indignant verses.

There were people who thought that with 500,000 GI's and over a million-strong Saigon soldiery, the aggressors would do short work of South Viet Nam, that with their program to "pacify South Viet Nam in 18 months," their "outlawing of Communists," their "dragging of the guillotine all over the country" in the early sixties, their "limited war" and their current "Vietnamization" they would be able to bend the South Vietnamese to their will. But what has actually happened has been forcefully depicted in these lines:

When they come, mist and fog descend,
When we march, the sun appears.
At each of our steps, a flower smiles,
Under our feet, foes lie buried for a thousand years.

"They come" by **Thanh Hai**

For intimidation purposes, hired thugs murder revolutionary militants, throw their bodies on village lanes and warn the people from burying them. But "fish cannot be separated from water" and militants from the masses:

This is a Communit's corpse.
Woe be to him who inters it!
Woe be to him who inters it?
They've hardly turned their backs,
When in a vermilion lackered coffin,
He is carried to his last home,
Followed behind
By the entire village and street,
Young and old, men and women.
... On the Communist's grave,
Glow red roses, red like blood
Blooming into flowers
In the middle of a page of Viet Nam's history,
Relating the last battle won.

"Flowers are blooming on your grave"

by **Thanh Hai**

South Viet Nam's revolutionary poetry deals with a great variety of themes the main one of which being men and women for whom heroism has become a way of life, particularly the Vietnamese women who contrive against overwhelming odds to feed their husbands and children busy resisting aggression, whose allegiance to the revolution knows no bounds and whose "hearts are incommensurable" even when their "backs are bent with years" and their hair is hoary with time"

Mother has been digging trenches since her hair was still raven dark
And now that it is silvery
She is cutting shelters under deluges of shells.
For years, the echoes of her pickaxe have been ringing at night.
For all the twenty years of war in our embattled land,
Like serenades for the home country,
Her maze of works is solid like fortresses
Sheltering every step of mine...
Each day age adds to the silver of her hair
But night after night
Each blow of her axe bites into the earth's entrails
For whole divisions to spring out of them
And strike terror into the foe's heart.
All around them, every place is a battlefield,
And our home land is limitless
And mother's heart incommensurable.

"Our limitless home land"

by **Duong Huong Ly**

No one thought under mother's hut
Under the thick earth a fire was burning.
Mother was busy morning and evening
Feeding my elder brothers hidden in the underground.
Her life had been one of sacrifices
For twenty years defending land and village,
Oh you mother, a Vietnamese mother!

"Visit to Father's native village"

by **Le Anh Xuan**

Vietnamese mothers,
"fighting mother of five (Mme Ut Tich), a mother of family, deputy C.i.C. (Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh)... Mothers in the "long haired" armies engaged in political actions, expert in public affairs, able in household business...

The picture of 14 million people locked in combat against the most formidable enemy is impressive indeed. In the centre of it is standing the Liberation fighter in action in the Spring days of 1968:

... No other morning was ever like this spring one
When we flew in the thousand degree hot rockets.
... The suburbs gates had been opened for us to rush through a hundred others,
Our red hearts adorning our antitank guns' muzzles.

"The Suburban Land" by **Nguyen Khoa Diem**

The electrifying offensive of that Tet have brought about a new situation, have changed the complexion of the battlefield complete passivity on the adverse side, the initiative held firm and offensive posture strengthened for the revolution:

He collapsed on the Tan Son Nhut tarmac,
But summoning up all his strength, he stood up again and propped his gun on a chopper's wreckage,
Anh died while blazing away,
His blood gushing along the trajectory of his bullets.
At his sight, the panicked foe raised their hands.
Some even crouched at his feet to dodge his fire,
For of him even dead, the fearless finger
Was still pressing the trigger. unruffled.
What was your name, combatant dear to my heart,
Standing there still and steady like a brass citadel,
In your rubber sandals plain and pure, treading on aggressors' bodies?
Not a photograph, not a line of address.
Was found about you, nothing
But your bearing, that of Viet Nam carved into the century,
Your bearing as a Liberation fighter.
Your name has become one with the nation...

"Viet Nam's Standing Posture" by **Le Anh Xuan**

Spring and victory have always been associated with Viet Nam's history of resistance against foreign invasion. The New Year's feats usually are forerunners of fresh splendid pages of history, of new promising stages in the nation's life, of further advances on the road of revolution...

Uncle Ho used to send New Year's wishes for success to the country in his spring verses. He once wrote:

This Spring will outshine all the past springs.
Tidings of battles won spread elation throughout the land.
North and South will vie in fighting the foe.
Forward! Our total triumph is an assurance double sure.

Ho Chi Minh
Spring 1968

The revolutionary poets, the whole Vietnamese nation have pledged to fulfil Uncle's last wishes to reciprocate his services to the country, going by his axiom: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom":

Fortunate citizens who were given the opportunity to see Uncle Ho
Whose carriage called to mind that of the Hung founding fathers.
Four thousand years it has taken us to achieve today,
Today — the Ho Chi Minh era.

"The Ho Chi Minh Era"

by **Nguyen Khoa Diem**

For the South Vietnamese nothing has succeeded like success. The US and its clients' final ruin is only a matter of time because:

Day and night all South Viet Nam are thinking up
Means more lethal to the foe
Rice from Camau, cassava from Truong Son
Profusely flow to the front line.
...
South Viet Nam! South Viet Nam! Land of the undaunted,
....

South Viet Nam! South Viet Nam! The poet
Of the present, the bard of the future
Who is writing history with rifles,
The glory of your men illumines the fighting ditches.

"No land is like South Viet Nam"

by **Le Anh Xuan**

8-1971

HIEN LUONG

Cambodia:

CNLAF SUSTAINED ATTACKS

FOLLOWING up the dry-season (October 1970 — June 1971) big gains, the Cambodian people and National Liberation Armed Forces have begun the rainy season most propitiously, *AKI* reported.

In July, they continued to tighten their encirclement around Phnom Penh and other areas held by the enemy, and attacked them without respite.

In the first half of this month alone, in coordination with the regional and regular forces, the guerillas in Kandal, Preyveng, Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Thom, Kompong Speu and Siem Reap wiped out nearly 1,000 Phnom Penh and Saigon troops, destroyed 40 military vehicles and a large amount of other war materials.

In the Phnom Penh defence perimeter, they have been unceasingly closing their noose around the adversary and intensifying harrassing activities against them, especially in Vihear Suor, Prey Bang regions, etc. On July 1st and 2nd alone, dozens of adverse men were killed and two cannons wrecked. As revealed by Western correspondents present on the spot, the Cambodian patriotic forces mounted on July, 1st three assaults East and Southwest of Phnom Penh and on Highway number 5. Am Rong, a spokesman of the Phnom Penh puppets, had to admit that these had cost them dozens of dead and wounded, though the figures were below reality.

To shore up their soldiers' morale following hard blows received in the last dry season, especially in Snuol and the Phnom Penh defence perimeter, the Saigon and Phnom Penh authorities embarked on a new military adventure in the border regions of Kratié, Kompong Cham, Preyveng, Svay Rieng, Takeo and Northwest of Phnom Penh, but they suffered new losses.

The guerillas and regional forces have been incessantly getting at the enemy communication lines, causing countless difficulties to enemy supply. Traffic on Highway number One linking Phnom Penh to Saigon was sealed off on all the road portion traversing the Cambodian territory.

Meanwhile, the military situation on Highway number 4 remains a headache for both the Yanks and their quislings. *AFP* disclosed on July 31 that the Saray bridge near Sihanoukville, mended and put into operation a few days ago, again came under fire. The transport of goods from Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh on that road was completely suspended. *UPI* further reported on July 30 that 2 US helicopters escorting convoys of Saigon troops on the Mekong River had been brought down.

In the liberated zone, under the NUFK leadership, upholding the spirit: "independennce," "be masters of their country's destiny," and "rely mainly on their own forces," the Cambodian people have made all-out efforts in production, and husbandry, in the development of "mutual aid teams" in the countryside, and in land clearing.

The population in the liberated areas have participated in youth's women's and children's organizations and in guerilla units. Besides the ever developing agricultural production, several traditional trades have been rehabilitated, and new consumer goods put on sale. As a result of these military and economic successes, the political foundations of the revolutionary power have been further strengthened.

The successive setbacks suffered by the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique on all the battlefields since the start of the 1971 rainy season have had disastrous consequences for the US client regime in Phnom Penh and the US strategy in Indochina. These reverses have aggravated the economic and political situation of the Phnom Penh gang of traitors and at the same time have had serious effects on their future dryseason plans and portend ever heavier setbacks for them in the days to come.

Supplying the front

Laos:

OVER 3,000 ENEMY TROOPS PUT OUT OF ACTION

ACCORDING to still incomplete statistics released by *KPL* in the first two months of the rainy season beginning June 1971, the Lao People's Liberation Army and people *put out of action more than 3,000 enemy troops, seized and destroyed over 1,000 arms including many cannons, mortars and recoilless guns, and brought down or damaged 37 enemy aircraft and demolished 10 military vehicles.*

In the Xieng Khoang-Plain of Jars area, the Lao patriotic forces broke off many assaults by the enemy, putting out of action more than 1,600 enemy troops. They shot down several dozen aircraft, destroyed 6 vehicles, and captured 117 guns, including dozens of cannons and mortars. Crack units of the "special forces" sustained the heaviest defeats, the 23rd Mobile Regiment alone lost nearly 200 men. The Thai mercenaries received well-deserved punishment: hundred Thai troops were wiped out or captured. Many officers American, Thai and puppet forces, including a US colonel adviser of the "special forces," one Thai battalion commander, one "special forces" battalion commander, and many company and platoon commanders, were killed or wounded.

In Saravane province and on the Boloven Plateaux, the patriotic forces put out of combat more than 1,100 enemy troops, shot down 3 aircraft, and seized 528 firearms.

The patriotic forces in Savannakhet province routed an enemy operation in Pha Lan in the Highway 9 area and hotly pursued the enemy remnants, putting out of action a total of more than 100 enemy troops.

Between May 17, 1964 and the end of July, 1971, 2,217 US aircraft were downed and destroyed in Laos.

Americans, New Zealanders and Australians participating in a protest meeting against US-Thieu in Saigon

SAIGON AND U.S. STUDENTS DEMAND...

ON August 2, 1971 in Saigon the American delegation under David Dull, President of the International Student Movement for United Nations, and the South Vietnamese delegation under Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon Students' General Association, declared in their joint statement:

"Most of us have spent our lives dominated by the Viet Nam war. The conflict has been less obstrusive at some times than at others, but for over 20 years, the United States Government has been the primary source of support for colonial and neo-colonial governments in South Viet Nam.

We have seen a prosperous land and proud people set to the torch, we have seen the United States sacrifice her finest lives, much of her treasure and the spirit of her tradition in a vain attempt to impose her values here.

It is no secret, then, that the conflict we witness here could not have taken place in the past nor could it continue today without the direct and on-going intervention of the United States government. The continuation of that aid cannot be said to be directed toward any useful end.

We believe that the future course of Vietnamese history is an issue for the Vietnamese alone to decide.

We therefore call upon the United States government and its allies in Saigon to accept the seven-point program of the PRG as the best hope for a Vietnamese solution to Vietnamese problems.

The first point of that plan offers the prompt return of US POW's as well as safe transit for US and allied troops once a date for total withdrawal has been set. There can be no more important first step than the admission by the United States Government that it has no role in the internal political affairs of sovereign states.

Furthermore: points two through five provide the proper basis for the settlement among the Vietnamese of political conditions after US troops have departed.

Finally, the sixth and seventh points rightly call for international guarantees for these agreements and the economic obligations which the United States bears toward a land so thoroughly ravaged at her will and by her acts.

There can be no more urgent task for our two peoples than to recognize the sovereign right of self-determination of the Vietnamese people which this plan implies. Only an immediate and total withdrawal of the United States military presence and an end to her support for the Thieu regime can open the road to peaceful development in this tortured land."

NEW ADVANCE
ON THE "SECOND FRONT"

LAST night I dreamt a very strange dream... There was no more war in this world..., so sang the famous singer John Denver on last April 24. His words penetrated in the hearts of Americans who had been sharing the artiste's dream.

On May 9, the *Baltimore Sun* wrote that people wished to get up one morning to see that the war had ended, and that they were ready to accept its termination at any price.

Over the past years, the American people have been not only dreaming, but also acting. The Winter days of 1968, 1969 and the campus storm in May 1970 are still fresh in the minds of the peace-loving people in the world.

The year 1971 has come, and the morning of peace has not yet dawned. The aggressive war in Viet Nam is dragging with it the fragile "Vietnamization" Program which blocks the Paris Conference. Disastrous operations "Complete Victory 1-71" in Cambodia and "Lam Son 719" in Laos marked serious escalations of Washington, extending the war to Indochina as a whole. Thousands of young Americans continue to die for nothing on the battlefield. Hundreds of millions of dollars paid by US working people are being wasted by US henchmen in Saigon, Phnom Penh, Vientiane, —instruments of the war,—to sow deaths and ruins on lands which have never committed aggression against America. In a word, the war is going on, with its daily crop of sad news for American families, and a tremendous waste of the fruits of their labour.

There is for the peace-freedom and justice-loving US people no alternative than the present militant course. With its magnitude, its impetus, and its variety of forms, it had a strong impact on the feelings and conscience of many people, and was brought to a new stage — as acknowledged by public opinion — by its leaders who had developed new tactics: dispersal alternating with concentration and massive and sustained actions.

In comparison with previous US anti-war drives, the recent one was by far greater in number and larger in attendance. It was a real uprising of Americans, irrespective of race, class, faith, and political opinion, for a common objective: an end to the aggressive war in Indochina by the Nixon administration.

The mottoes reflected the deepest aspirations of the American people and hit at the most obdurate aspect of Nixon's Viet Nam policy: "Nixon should fix a date for the complete withdrawal of the GI's", "Put an immediate end to the war in Viet Nam!", "A job for my man!"...

With the 1971 Spring campaign, America showed she had not cooled down, as John Froines, a leader of the anti-war movement, remarked. This campaign gave the lie to the assertion that the Viet Nam war was no longer given priority in American life.

There is no doubt that the war in Viet Nam — unjust, immoral, illegal, bloody and expensive — is at the bottom of tragedies, economic and social crisis in America. It is a major concern for all segments of the American people.

Public opinion also commended the drive's efficient organization and leadership, important, even decisive factors of its success. Remarkable were the coordinated actions of different peace organization of their various aims of the struggle (for peace, democracy, better living standard, against racism), and its versatility.

THE dream of the American people is grounded on reality and militancy. It is not at all haunted by "phoney victory propaganda" and Washington's phased withdrawal of troops. It is not affected by "Tricky Dick's" peace delusion.

The enormous repressive forces (1) which, according to Western agencies, seemed to put Washington in a state of war, could not dam up the popular surge. Terror (beatings, women dragged by the hair, demonstrators, even women, old people and children—assaulted by dogs) and massive arrests (on May 3, 7,000 in Washington) were so revolting that Congresswoman Bella Abzug said that Nixon had turned Washington into a free-arrest zone like free-bombing zones in South Viet Nam.

In spite of all these measures, the turmoil was stepped-up. Viet Nam veterans on crutches demanded to be put in jail together with arrested women. Students turned their arrests into an opportunity to agitate and denounce the establishment and were cheered when sent to jail.

The leaders of the May 3 demonstration rightly stated that they had awakened US conscience and *Forward*, on behalf of the US workers, said to Nixon: "Enough!" A "scrap Nixon" in 1972, tendency has emerged among the Democrats. On August 11, Mayor of New York John Lindsay broke away from the Republican Party to protest against its Viet Nam line. Great is the "credibility gap."

Nixon thought he could deceive the American people with his "silent majority" thesis and his rhetoric. The 1971 Spring drive came as an unpleasant surprise to him. Stubborn and crafty, he has learned no lesson from it. He speaks of peace on earth seen from the moon, make sensational diplomatic moves, puts forward new economic measures tantamount to brigandage.

The Conference of US peace-fighters in New York has adopted a new program of action and is preparing for Summer and Autumn offensives against the Indochina war. An exhibition in Madison Avenue (New York) has initiated a vast propaganda campaign extending to all the families in the USA.

The American people are taking a stand against Nixon. With deeds, they are showing their determination to make their dream come true and they are sure of it.

DAI LIEN

---

(1) *According to* US News and World Report, *the repressive forces mobilized in Washington included* 28 *C-130 and* 30 *C-141 transport planes, GUH—IH, 5CH—47, 2UH-1,* 10,000 *GI's and marines to reinforce* 2,000 *National Guards and* 5,000 *policemen.*

Militancy is the history of Viet Nam and Latin America. That is the plate on the Montevideo (Uruguay) Architecture Institute

From US News Liberation Service

IN BRIEF

• President Marien N'gouabi of the People's Republic of Congo and President Francisco Macias N'guema of the Equatorial Republic of Guinea signed on August 19 in Brazzaville a joint communique voicing support for the Vietnamese people's just fight against the US aggressors for national salvation. The Equatorial Guinean President stated: "Only the Indochinese peoples have the right to choose the kind of regime they want for their countries. Foreign must stop interfering in the Indochinese countries' internal affairs."

• At a reception given by the Republic of South Viet Nam Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea in Conakry on August 7, Guinean President Sékou Touré heartily praised the recent big gains of the South Vietnamese people as "a bright example and a due contribution to the strengthening of the anti-imperialists' forces in the world."

• In an interview on August 12 with the RSVN Chargé d'Affaires ad-interim to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in San'a, Yemeni Prime Minister Mohamed Nasser Ali said: "The US imperialists are the common enemy of the Vietnamese and Arab peoples... The PDRY people will constantly side with the Vietnamese people in their fight against the US imperialists."

• The "International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace," the "War Resisters' International," the "World Peace Council", the "International Federation of Scientific Workers," the "Pacifists' Organisation in Denmark," the "Denmark-Viet Nam Committee"... held a conference in Copenhague from August 3 to 9. The participants unanimously adopted a plan of action against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina, including activities against the US Embassies in foreign countries, those aimed at inducing the world public opinion into opposing that war and the launching of a widespread propaganda campaign for the RSVN PRG 7-point peace initiative.

• Recently, 46 Danish M.P.s have signed a message to the US government urging the total withdrawal of American troops from Indochina.

• To prepare for an international meeting in support of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia to be held in Santiago on August 31, the Support Viet Nam Committees in Chile and Argentina have issued a statement calling on both countries' peoples and youths to actively respond to the preparations for the conference and take part in the movements in support of Viet Nam, and raise funds for a hospital for Vietnamese children.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION